



## State of Connecticut

SENATOR LEONARD A. FASANO

SENATE MINORITY LEADER

34<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

SUITE 3400  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591  
[www.SenatorFasano.com](http://www.SenatorFasano.com)

HARTFORD: (860) 240-8800  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421  
FAX: (860) 240-8306  
[Len.Fasano@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Len.Fasano@cga.ct.gov)

**Testimony in Support of *SJ 10*,  
Transportation Committee  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015  
10:30 PM in Room 1E of the LOB**

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero, Vice-Chairman Leone, Vice-Chairman Arce, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Senate Republican Caucus in support of SJ 10 A RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION LIMITING THE USE OF THE MONEY CONTAINED IN THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND.

A recent study determined that driving on deficient roads costs Connecticut motorists a total of \$4.2 billion annually in additional vehicle operating costs and for delays because of congestion and traffic crashes. This isn't just a matter of lost money, the average driver in the Bridgeport/Stamford urban area loses 42 hours each year because of traffic congestion, a Hartford area driver loses 38 hours annually and the average New Haven driver loses 35 hours a year. This is clearly a quality of life issue.

This same report determined that 35% of our bridges are in need of repair, improvement or replacement, and of that 10% are structurally deficient and 25% are functionally obsolete. Connecticut's transportation network is failing the citizens of this state. The first step to improve our infrastructure is to protect the money that is supposed to be used to fund it. SJ 10 does just that.

SJ 10 proposes a constitutional amendment to not only protect the money in the STF it also protects the money that is designated to go into the STF. There would be no more transfers of our transportation dollars for non-transportation purposes. In the last four years, the state has raided approximately \$45 million from the STF. SJ 10 would also require "transportation purposes" to be clearly defined, adding another level of protection to our transportation dollars.

In addition to identifying current revenue sources for the STF, such as the gas tax and the gross receipts tax, this amendment looks to the future and would require that future transportation related revenue be placed in the STF. This proposed amendment protects our transportation future. We owe it to the citizens of this state to have a safe, modern, efficient transportation network; SJ 10 puts us on that path.

In addition, you are hearing today a number of bills with regard to funding transportation initiatives. I would ask that you consider the transportation plan outlined by House and Senate Republicans that establishes a predictable and sustainable funding source and empowering transportation experts to plan for the future. Our plan aims to create a safe, reliable and multi-model transportation network including roads, bridges, rail, bus, and port improvements.

On behalf of the entire Senate Republican Caucus I would like to thank you for this opportunity today.

Len Fasano  
Senate Minority Leader